

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A sheet post-processing device which comprises:
 - storage means for storing sheets conveyed from an image forming device;
 - matching means for regulating at least one end of a sheet bunch stored by said storage means to match said end of sheet bunch at a predefined matching position;
 - staple means for stapling said sheet bunch stored by said storage means;
 - first holding means for gripping and conveying said sheet bunch matched at the matching position back in a first direction opposite to said one end of said sheet bunch matched at the matching means, and subsequently conveying said sheet bunch forward in a second direction,
 - second holding means to subsequently gripping and conveying said sheet bunch forward further in the second direction toward said one end of said sheet bunch; and
 - a controlling means for controlling said stapling means so as to perform a first stapling after once the first holding means gripping and conveying the sheet bunch back in the first direction from said matching position and subsequently perform a second stapling or multiple staplings while the second holding means grips the sheet bunch after the first holding means conveying said sheet bunch forward in the second direction and prior to the second holding means conveys the sheet bunch further in the second direction.

2. (currently amended) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein, when said first holding means once transfers the sheet bunch matched by said matching means toward the other end of said sheet bunch, a binding position of the sheet bunch, which is positioned between said matching means and a stapling position of said stapling means, in a position where the sheet bunch is matched by said matching means is moved toward said stapling position.

3. (currently amended) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 2 wherein after said first holding means transfers said sheet bunch toward said other end and said stapling means staples the binding position of the sheet bunch positioned between said matching means and the stapling position of said stapling means, said stapling means staples one portion or plural portions of the sheet bunch while the sheet bunch is transferred toward said one end.

4. (currently amended) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein when said first holding means transfers the stapled sheet bunch toward said one end, said matching means is retracted from a matching position.

5. (original) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein stapling means is disposed on a side edge in a direction orthogonal to a conveying direction of the sheet bunch.

6. (original) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 which further comprises an accumulating section for accumulating the sheet bunch which is transferred to said one end by said transfer means after stapled by said stapling means.

7. (original) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein said matching means are disposed on front and rear end of the conveying direction of the sheet bunch, and the stapling means is disposed between the front-end and rear-end matching means.

8. (currently amended) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 7 wherein when said first holding means once transfers the matched sheet bunch toward said other end, said rear-end matching means is retracted from a matching position.

9. (previously presented) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1, wherein said matching means comprises a first matching member fixed in the conveying direction and a second movable matching member for pushing the sheet bunch onto the said first matching member fixed in the conveying direction.

10. (currently amended) The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1, wherein said first holding means holds the sheet bunch at an edge of the sheet bunch other than where stapling occur.